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## INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Total Crew Membership of Certain Soviet Merchant Vessels/Medical Facilities/Disease Control/Drunkennes and Venereal Disease

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The total crew on the SS "Stalin", SS "Sergo", and SS "Tuapse" was 48 men on the "Stalin", 51 men on the "Sergo" and 51 men on the "Tuapse". The breakdown is as follows: 50X1-HUM
  - (a) 15 officers, namely Captain, Pompolit, 1st mate, 2nd mate, 3rd mate, 4th mate, chief engineer, 2nd engineer, 3rd engineer, 4th engineer, radio operator, doctor, electrical engineer, bookkeeper.
  - (b) Seven rated and the rest non-rated seamen.
2. There was an infirmary on each of these ships. It had two or three beds and was equipped with regular medical equipment except that there was no X-ray apparatus.
3. These ships had only one doctor, either male or female, but no nurses.
4. Medical examination of merchant marine recruits is made ashore and is carried out very thoroughly. Regular medical checks are made after that once every year. This examination includes: blood test, urinalysis, bowels, chest X-ray eyes, ears, throat, teeth, also tapping of knee caps for nervous disorders. That is all.
5. Periodic physical examination of the area is carried on once every year. It is the same as that described above. 50X1-HUM
- 6.
7. On shore-leave, much drinking is done in the Merchant Marine. Everybody drinks, some excessively. On board there is no alcohol available, except Southern natural wine and nobody cares for it because it is too weak.
8. There was some incidence of VD in the Merchant Marine in the USSR after World War II, but after that it fell off considerably and there is very little incidence today. Sailors on duty abroad have no occasion to catch VD, because very strict controls prevent them from contact with foreign women (three men in a group remain together while ashore and one of them is responsible for the rest). No crew member is authorized shore-leave overnight. When a sailor returns to the ship in an intoxicated condition, he is reprimanded by the officers or the Komsomol representative on board.
9. The miserable living conditions in the USSR are not only due to lack of properly balanced food. Other things contribute also to make life miserable there, for instance, poor quality clothing, poor quality footwear, crowded and inadequate

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housing. After all, a man could live on cabbage and potatoes and still manage to survive somehow.

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10. While in service with the Merchant Marine [redacted] inoculated once every year against five diseases. [redacted] In Russian this inoculation is called: Kombinirovanny Ukol (Combination shot).

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12. There is a Poliklinik serving the Merchant Marine on Primorskiy Bulvard in Odessa. It is a three-story brick building. It has no beds, only offices staffed with medical specialists for consultation. [redacted] a Poliklinik in Nikolayev also. This Poliklinik is located on Komsomolskaya Ulitsa, in a suburb of Nikolayev. It is a one-story brick building and also is very well equipped.

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13. The following is a breakdown of crew members of certain Soviet vessels:

- (a) SS "Meganom" - Eight officers, 13 sailors, 13 motorists, one cook, one steward.
- (b) SS "Zhiguli" - Eight officers, 13 sailors, 13 motorists, one cook, one steward.
- (c) SS "Mangishlak" - Eight officers, 13 sailors, 13 motorists, one cook, one steward.
- (d) SS "Stalin", SS "Maykop", SS "Tuapse", each has a total crew of 50 men. They are: 16 officers, 14 motorists, 14 sailors, two cooks, one steward (crew), one steward (officers), one carpenter, one donkeyman.

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14. There was no infirmary and no doctors on the vessels designated under (a), (b), (c) above. There was a medicine chest equipped with first aid medical supplies in charge of the First Mate. The SS "Stalin", SS "Maykop" and SS "Tuapse" have a small infirmary which accommodates five or six men. It is well equipped and is staffed by one doctor but no other medical personnel. Operations requiring X-ray diagnosis, appendectomies, etc, are not made on board; all complicated cases are taken off the ship and transferred to a hospital located in a port at the shortest distance from the ship.

15. Only one doctor was employed in the infirmary of the SS "Stalin", SS "Maykop" and SS "Tuapse" and he was a male doctor. Some ships, however, carry female doctors.

16. On vessels which did not have an infirmary, injuries which were not serious were treated by competent officer personnel; serious injuries and diseases were disposed of by transfer of the patient to a hospital.

17. Medical examination of merchant marine recruits was very thorough. It included a chest X-ray, cardiograph, eye and ear examination. Special emphasis was laid on good eyesight and hearing but the examination covered everything from head to toe and was thorough.

18. A very thorough physical examination of the crew was carried on once a year.

19. Venereal diseases are not widespread among the crew.

20. Excessive drinking is indeed widespread among the crew.

21. In case of infection with VD, a crew member is immediately isolated and transferred to a hospital for treatment in order to insure against spreading of the infection. When travelling outside of the geographical limits of the Soviet Union, and reaching ports in foreign countries, members of the crew are authorized shoreleave only on certain conditions. First of all, when going ashore, they must leave the ship in a group of three men and must stay together as a group until they return to their ship. Besides, they are forbidden while ashore, to visit public establishments of any kind, restaurants, bars, theatres, etc. All they are able to do is to walk the streets. The idea of the three-man-group is to hold one of the three responsible for the actions of the other two and report any breaches of discipline on their return to the ship. On trips to Satellite countries, such strict rules do not apply and members of the crew, when given shore leave, may visit any place they wish. They may do the same in all Soviet ports also, but outside of these and ports in Satellite countries, any violations of rules are severely punished. Getting drunk while ashore is not considered an offense as long as the man in question returns to his ship in a fairly sober condition. If he does return to his ship in an intoxicated condition he is given a severe reprimand and if this happens repeatedly he is fired from the shipping line.

22. Lack of vitamins and lack of meat, fats, sugar, etc, has a definite effect on the state of health of the Soviet population.

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23. [redacted] For trips

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to the tropics, crew members are also inoculated against dysentery

24.

25.

polyclinics generally do not provide beds; at the most some have eight-10 beds. People usually go there to check the rate of progress of previous treatment.

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